terrain, poor response of the electors at the designated photographic locations etc., that have affected the programme adversely.

(d) The Election Commission of India has informed that it will review the position in these States for compulsory production of voters identity cards during the polls at an appropriate time and will issue necessary orders. However, in the recent past as a matter of abundant caution, the Commission has permitted the old electors who have not obtained their voter identity cards, to exercise their franchise to vote at the said elections, provided their identity is otherwise established by production of one of the alternative documents prescribed by the Commission.

Litigant friendly judicial reforms

3974. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate a series, litigant friendly judicial reforms in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would also put in place a system to ensure quick delivery of justice to the litigants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The canvas of Judicial reforms is very wide, encompassing wide spectrum of issues concerning different departments of the Central Government. Out of the main litigant friendly areas of judicial reforms is reduction of delays in courts. A series of steps have been taken by the Government on the front of Judicial reforms. High Courts have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Malimath Committee to streamline procedure which will, inter-alia, expedite disposal of pending cases. Government have also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arreas in courts. Besides reviewing and increasing judge strength of High Courts every three years, Government have set up/encouraged alternative modes of dispute resolution including conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts etc., have been set up to expedite the disposal of cases. Information Technology is being used in generation of causelists, providing information to the litigants/advocates etc., for speedy disposal of cases. A Pilot project

has been started for Networking and Computerisation of City Courts in the four major metrocities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai to serve as a model. The project is aimed at augmenting capacities of courts and speeding up their disposal through better court management with the help of information technology.

Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into force with effect from 1.07.2002 which, inter-alia, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail, authorise the court to fix time limit for oral arguments & provide for a number of other measures aimed at ensuring expeditious disposal of cases. Permanent Lok Adalats are being set up for expeditious resolution of disputes relating to public utilities.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme funds have also been provided for the use of Information Technology in the High Courts. Fast Track Courts have been set up to speed up the trial of delayed cases, and in particular the cases of undertrials who have been in jail for a long time.

State Governments & Union Territories have been requested to fill up vacant posts of judges/magistrates & supporting staff in District/Subordinate Courts.

Business of surety on forged documents in capital

3975. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of unemployed persons working under touts stand surety on forged documents in connivance with unscrupulous lawyers in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the preventive measures proposed to be taken to unearth the racket going on in the judiciary system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in case of doubt that an attempt is being made to present an impersonator in support of bogus document, then concerned police station is directed to register the case.